

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for mapping a tag in a markup language (ML) document to a class using namespaces, comprising:
  - analyzing a tag in the ML document;
  - referencing a definition file location attribute in the ML document,wherein the definition file location attribute is related to the tag;
  - retrieving a definition file associated with the definition file location attribute;
  - referencing a namespace related to the tag within the definition file to determine the class associated with the tag; and
  - locating the class in an assembly such that the tag is mapped to the class.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein analyzing a tag further comprises analyzing the tags in linear order as listed in the ML document.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein analyzing a tag further comprises reading a prefix corresponding to the namespace related to the tag.
4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising defining the namespace using the prefix, wherein the prefix maps to an extensible markup language namespace, and wherein the definition file maps the extensible markup language namespace to a common language runtime namespace and the assembly.
5. The method of Claim 3, wherein the prefix is defined in the ML document.
6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether the definition file is available locally in a cache, and if not available, storing the retrieved definition file in the cache.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein retrieving a definition file further comprises retrieving the definition file from a network location specified by definition file location attribute.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein locating the class in an assembly further comprises locating the class in a dynamic link library, the dynamic link library comprising classes of functions associated with the namespace.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating the ML document, the ML document comprising the tag and the definition file location attribute.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the definition file comprises a list of the namespaces, schemas and assemblies associated with the class related to the namespace.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the namespace of the definition file is associated with a property within an element of the ML document.

12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for mapping a tag in an ML document to a class using namespaces, the instructions comprising:

evaluating a tag in the ML document, wherein evaluating the tag comprises reading a prefix associated with the namespace when the prefix is present;  
detecting a definition file location attribute associated with the tag in the ML document;

fetching a definition file from a location specified by the definition file location attribute;

resolving a namespace related to the tag within the definition file to establish the class associated with the tag; and

finding an assembly that includes the class such that the tag is mapped to the class, wherein the assembly comprises classes of functions associated with the

namespace.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, further comprising determining whether the definition file is available locally in a cache, and if not available, storing the fetched definition file in the cache.

14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the definition file is fetched from a network location.

15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, further comprising defining the namespace using the prefix, wherein the prefix maps to an extensible markup language namespace, and wherein the definition file maps the extensible markup language namespace to a common language runtime namespace and the assembly.

16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the assembly comprises a dynamic link library.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the definition file comprises a list of the namespaces, schemas and assemblies associated with the class related to the namespace.

18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the namespace of the definition file is associated with a property within an element of the ML document.

19. A system for mapping a tag in an ML document to a class using namespaces, comprises:

means for analyzing a tag in the ML document;

means for referencing a definition file location attribute in the ML document, wherein the definition file location attribute is related to the tag;

means for retrieving a definition file from a location specified by the

definition file location attribute;

means for referencing a namespace related to the tag within the definition file to determine the class associated with the tag; and

means for locating the class in an assembly such that the tag is mapped to the class.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the means for analyzing the tag reads a prefix associated with the namespace when the prefix is present, wherein the prefix maps to an extensible markup language namespace, and wherein the definition file maps the extensible markup language namespace to a common language runtime namespace and the assembly.